REGIONAL INITIATIVE TO HARMONIZE PESTICIDE MRLs IN ORDER TO FACILITATE REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN PRODUCTS OF PLANT ORIGIN: EAC PERSPECTIVE

SPS Workshop on Pesticide Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs)
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Outline of Presentation

1. Overview of harmonization initiative within EC
2. Objective of the MRL harmonization work in EAC
3. Relevant bodied involved in the process and their roles
4. Steps in regard to developing MRL guidelines for the region
5. Purpose and Scope of issues covered in guidelines
6. Challenges faced in the harmonization work
7. Lesson learnt and next steps in the process
8. Acknowledgment
1. Overview of harmonization initiative within EC

- Pesticide residue data needed to established Codex MRLs are almost exclusively generated in industrialized countries.

- Rarely are data generated in developing countries, hence few Codec MRLs are established for tropical crops (crops of low pesticide usage on a global scale “specialty crop”).

- To reduce unnecessary divergences across national pesticide regulatory regimes and domestic legislation, the EAC Partner States consider greater harmonization of pesticide MRL:
  - to reduce challenges exporters often face to reach export market
  - to reduce burden in carrying out independent field trials and data generation in support of the establishment of pesticide MRLs.
  - to generate residue data in order to facilitate the registration of new pesticide, inform the establishment of MRLs, and to boost international trade.
2. Objective of the MRL harmonization work in EAC

➢ Expedite reviews and registration timeframe

➢ Support regional moves to ensure availability of safe and efficacious pesticides

➢ Facilitates mutual recognition and enhance work sharing

➢ Establish an EAC maximum residue limits (MRLs)
3. Relevant bodies and roles

**Council of Ministers**
Endorse Guidelines for implementation in the member regions

**National Government**
Nominate and Release EWGs

**Sectoral Council of Agriculture & Food Security**
- Decision making
- Approve activities
- Submit draft Guidelines to CM

**EAC Secretariat**
- Mobilize resources
- Sets and arrange physical meetings
- Monitor and manage EWG

**Regional stakeholder Forum secretariat**

**National Stakeholder Forum**

**Expert Working Group**
Review, elaborate and participate in working meeting under guidance of international consultant
### 4. Steps in regard to developing MRL guidelines for the region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step</th>
<th>Stage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1: SC agrees to start a topic and appoints an EWG</td>
<td>Drafting</td>
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<td>2: EWG elaborates a draft guideline (GL)</td>
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<td>3: SC approves draft GL for public consultation</td>
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<td>4: Draft GL is circulated to stakeholders and public</td>
<td>National and regional validation workshop</td>
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<td>5: EWG prepares a revised GL</td>
<td>Fine-tuning</td>
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<td>6: SC approves and forward for consideration to CM</td>
<td>Publishing</td>
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<td>7: Final endorsement of GL by Council of Ministers</td>
<td>Implementing</td>
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<td>8: Endorsed GL is circulated for domestication and implementation</td>
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<td>9: Secretariat monitors, maintains and reviews the GL</td>
<td>Maintenance</td>
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5. Purpose and Scope of issues covered in Crop Trial Protocols

• The protocol:
  – Provides requirement for crop trials in the field and laboratory.
  – Serves to provides data of sufficient quality to:
    ✓ quantify the expected magnitude of residue(s)
    ✓ determine the rate of decline of the residue(s) of pesticide
    ✓ promulgate an EAC MRLs
Outline of the Protocol

✓ Trial design
✓ Test substance
✓ Field sampling, storage and transport
✓ Residue decline studies
✓ Analysis of residue
✓ The selection of residue data for MRL determination.
6. Challenges faced in the harmonization work

- **Crop Differences**
  - Numbers of Crop grown
  - Complexity of farming system

- **GAP (use directions)**
  - Pest pressure
  - Cultivation practices
  - Pesticide applicators and equipment

- **Regulatory**
  - Variation in testing duration
  - Analytical method of pesticide residue
  - Ratification of document by Partner States
  - Costs and change of regulatory systems
7. **Lesson learnt and next steps in the process**

- Harmonization simplifies development of regional MRLs.
- Harmonization requires mutual trust, communication and cooperation.
- Regular participation by expert Working Group in harmonization process
- Continued development of the crop field trials guideline
- Finalizing work on document for establishment of EAC MRLs
- Development of SOPs to support accreditation of institution conducting residue trials
- Approval and endorsement by Council of Ministers
8. Acknowledgement

• Special thanks to development partners who contributed directly to funding harmonization process particularly United States Agency for International Development, Regional Office for Economic Integration (USAID East Africa) and in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) through the European Commission programme on ‘Capacity Building related to Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) in Africa, Caribbean and Pacific countries (ACP/MEAs’ Phase 2)

• Extend gratitude and appreciation to USDA-Foreign Agricultural Service initiative on trade facilitation for capacity building program on MRLs.

• Thanks to all the technical experts from the Partner States and International consultants who are developing the guidelines/protocols,

• Lastly but not least the WTO Secretariat for sponsoring my participation in this meeting to share the EAC experiences.